

Reconstruction

The period of time immediately after the Civil war. Its purpose was to repair the physical, emotional, economic and political damages caused by the Civil War.

Reconstruction lasted between 1865 (the end of the Civil War) and 1877 (the election of Rutherford Hayes).



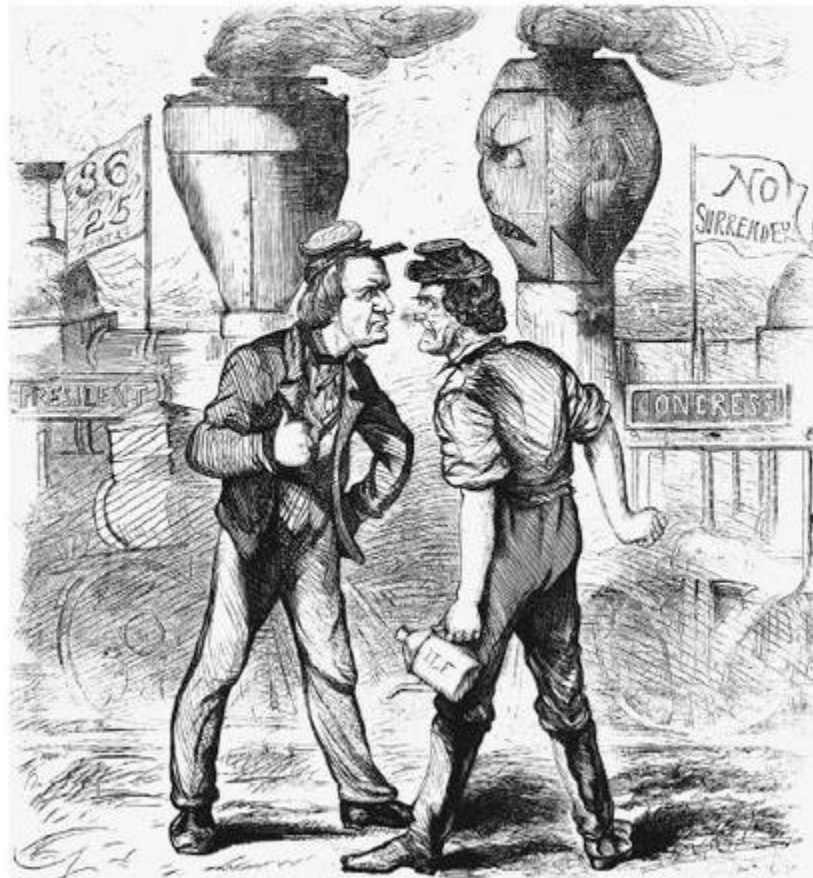
Transforming the South so it could rejoin the United States

Differing Opinions Over Reconstruction

Quick Unification

Goal was to bring the United States back together as a unified country.

Unification was key—Not punishment



Radical Reconstruction

Wanted to punish the south for causing the war

Focused on having the rights of former slaves upgraded and the rights of former confederates taken away

Lincoln's Plan

Lincoln never acknowledged the secession of the southern states. He always referred to them as states in rebellion. He wanted Reconstruction to be quick in order to heal the wounds of war.

**10%
Plan**

A state could be reunited with the Union once 10% of all registered voters swore an oath of allegiance to the United States, create a pro-Union government, and abolish slavery.

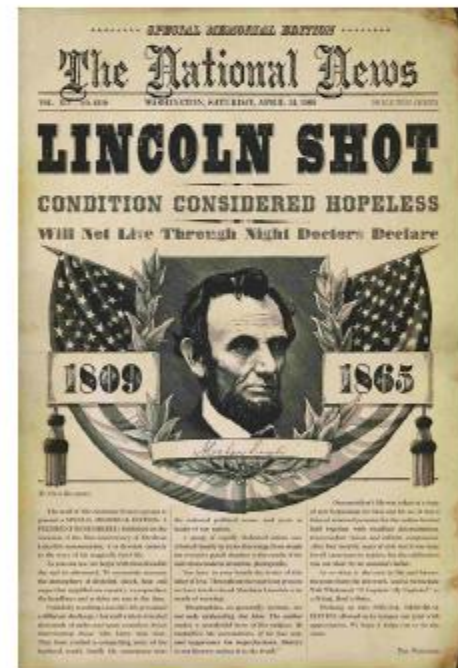
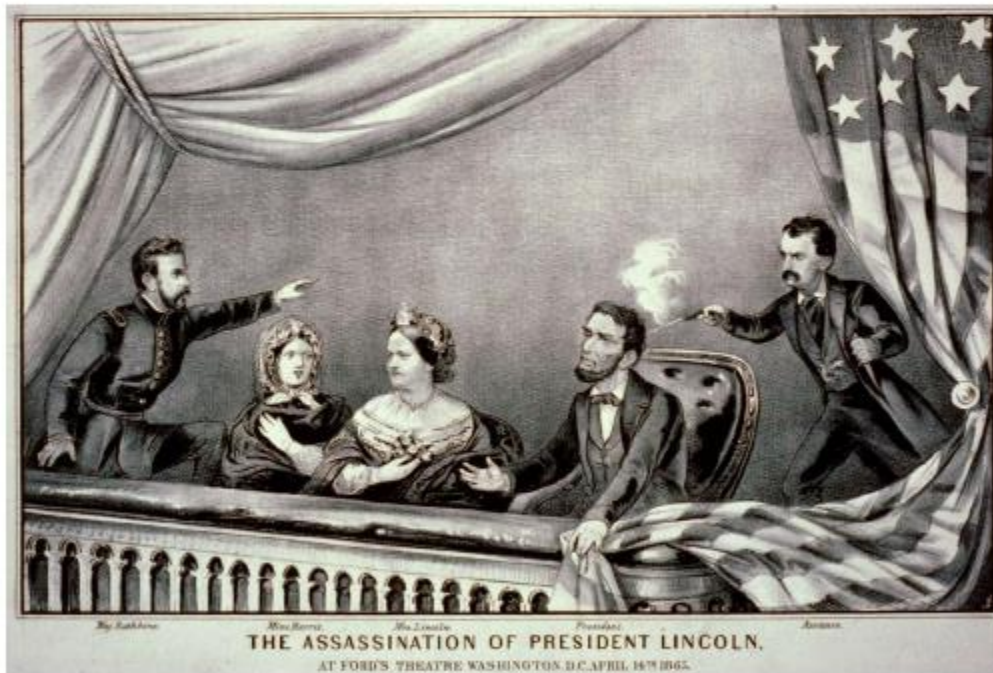
*This was a quick fix
But did not solve
any problems*

All confederate soldiers would be pardoned (except high ranking officials). Private property (except slaves) would be protected.



The Assassination of Lincoln

April 15, 1865 Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth while watching a play at Ford's Theater in Washington DC. He was fatally shot in the back of the head. This was only 5 days after Lee's surrender at the Appomattox Court House.

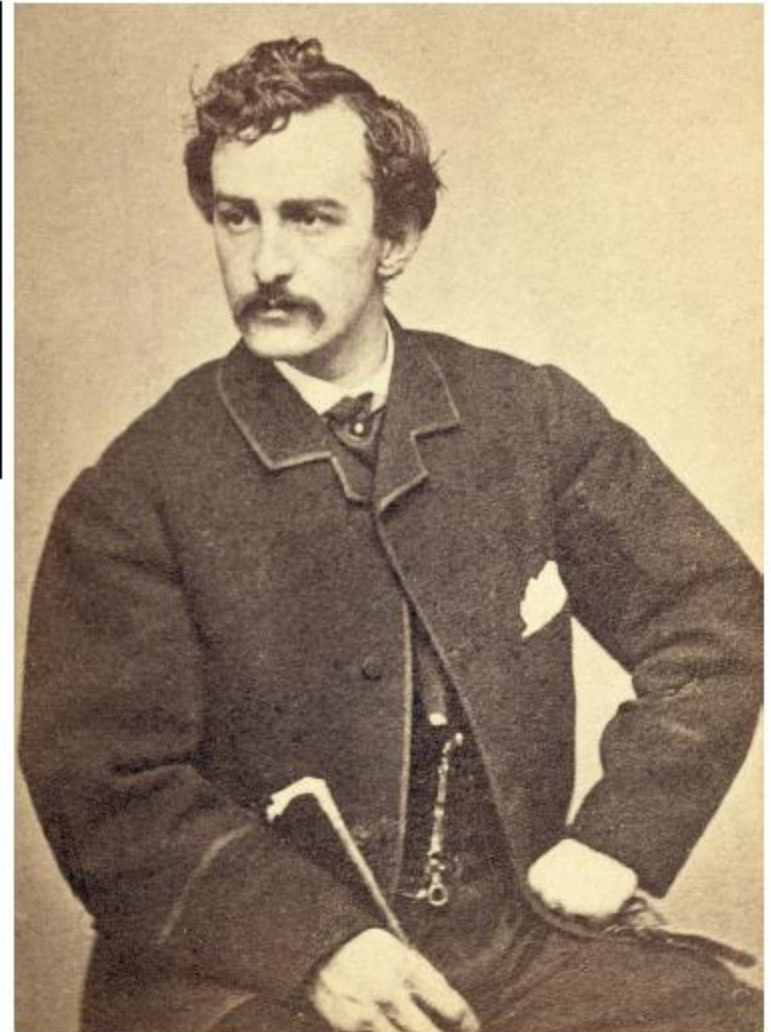


The assassination of Lincoln was a part of a larger conspiracy to overthrow the Union Government. Attempts were made on the lives of Vice President Andrew Johnson and Secretary of State William Seward. The other two attempts failed.

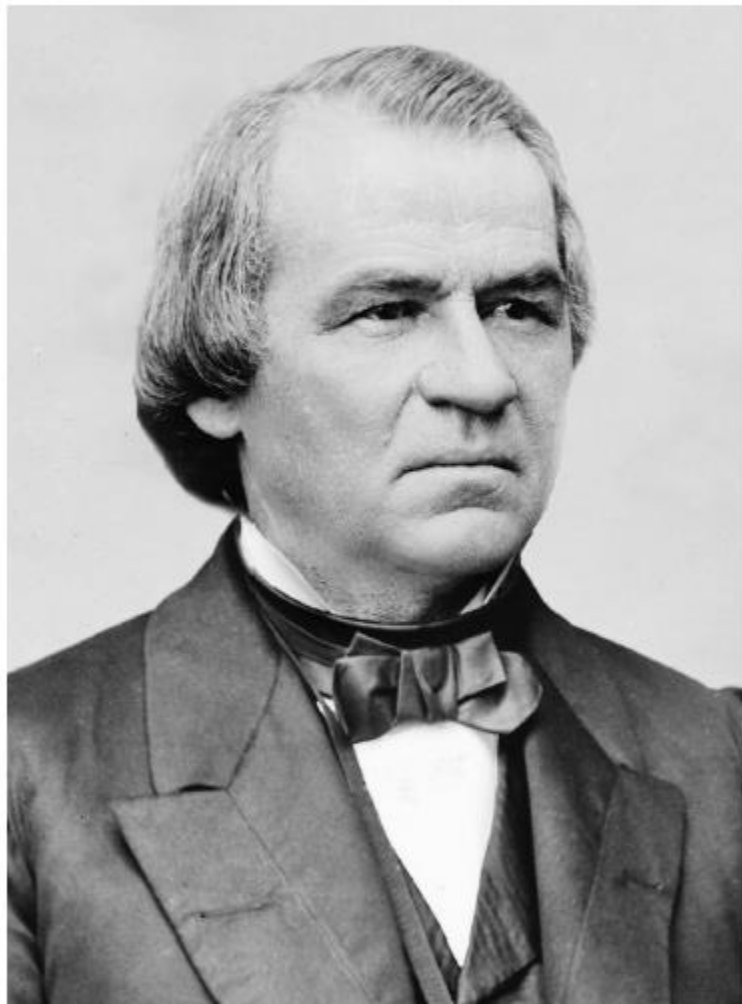
John Wilkes Booth

John Wilkes Booth was a southern sympathizer and a well known actor of the day. He shot Lincoln in the back of the head and then fled the theater.

One of the largest manhunts in American History took place in the days following the assassination.



Andrew Johnson



President—17

- Served from 1865 to 1868
- Republican Party
- Became president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated.
- Served during Reconstruction and continually fought with Congress over the process.
- Was the first president to be impeached while in office.

Johnson Plan

Mainly followed Lincoln's plan but became more harsh towards the southern states.

Appointed provisional governments to run the states during the reconstruction process and the drafting of new constitutions.

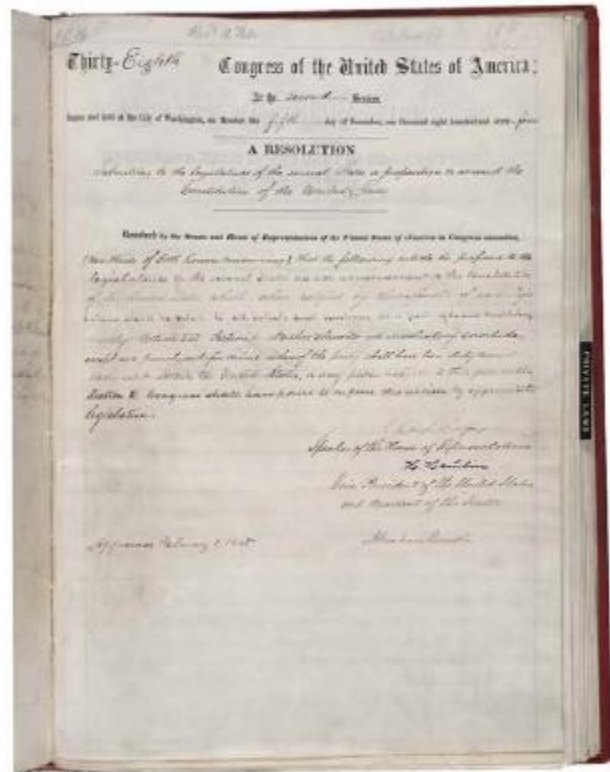
Goal was to shift power from larger planters to small farmers, but preserve a state's right to make economic and political decisions.

Took away rights from all civil and military officers and those who owned land worth more than \$20,000.

States had to ratify the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery.

13th Amendment

The Thirteenth Amendment OFFICIALLY made slavery in the United States illegal.



During Radical Reconstruction, southern states were required to ratify the 13th Amendment as a part of the terms of being readmitted to the Union.

14th Amendment

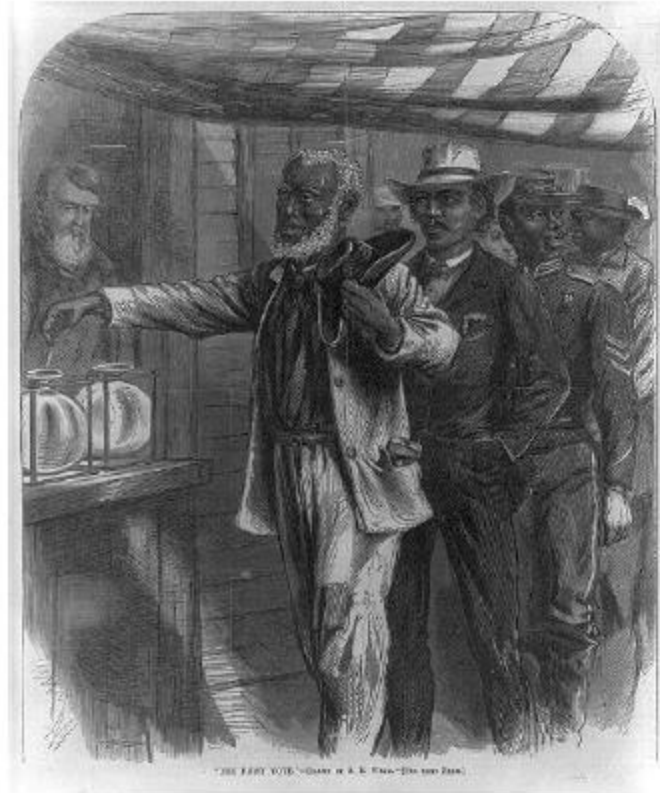
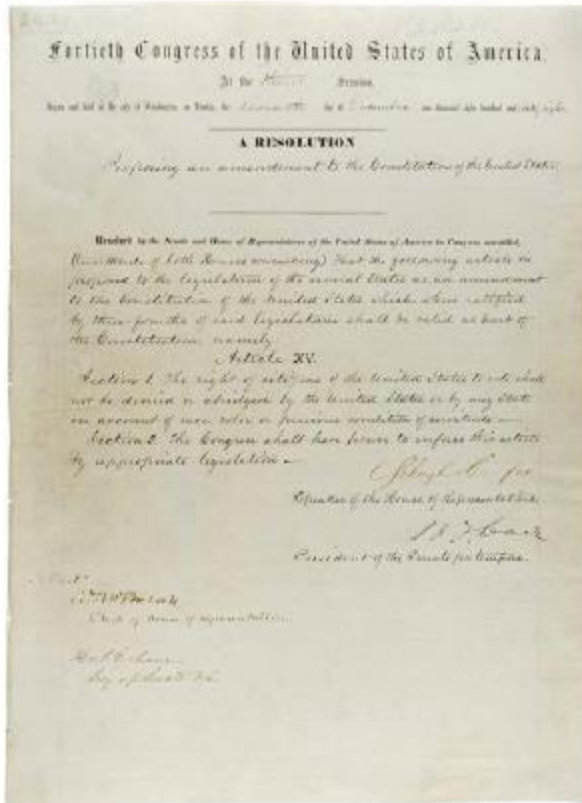
The Fourteenth Amendment defines citizenship as individuals born or naturalized in the United States. This is the amendment that provided citizenship to former slaves.



The Fourteenth Amendment also provides Citizenship with Equal protection under the law. AND tells states they can not deny people life, liberty or property with out due process of law.

15th Amendment

The Fifteenth Amendment gives former slaves the right to vote by saying that the government cannot deny a person's right to vote based on race or previous condition of servitude.



Radical Reconstruction

After Andrew Johnson vetoed the Freedmen's Bureau and the Civil Rights bill Radical Republicans passed the Reconstruction Act of 1867. These members of Congress wanted to use the power of the federal government to force change in the South.

Divided the South into 5 military districts each with a military governor

Southern states had to create a pro union government, ratify the 13th & 14th Amendments and give African Americans the Right to vote

The voting rights and the right to hold political offices for former confederates were taken away. As a result, new state governments were formed by Northerners who moved South and African Americans

This was the most harsh view on the reconstruction process. Its goal was to punish the south for causing the war. It also removed political control from former confederates, creating tensions between them and the carpetbaggers who moved south to profit from the plan.

Military Districts in the South

This period of Radical Reconstruction is also called Congressional Reconstruction and Military Reconstruction. This refers to when “Radical Republicans” in Congress took over the Reconstruction process and divided the south into 5 military districts. Each military district had a military governor who had the right to overturn decisions made by the state government.



Political Changes in the South

Under Military Reconstruction, southern states had to rewrite their state constitution in order to be re-admitted to the Union. Under these new constitutions the right to vote and run for office was taken away from former Confederates.

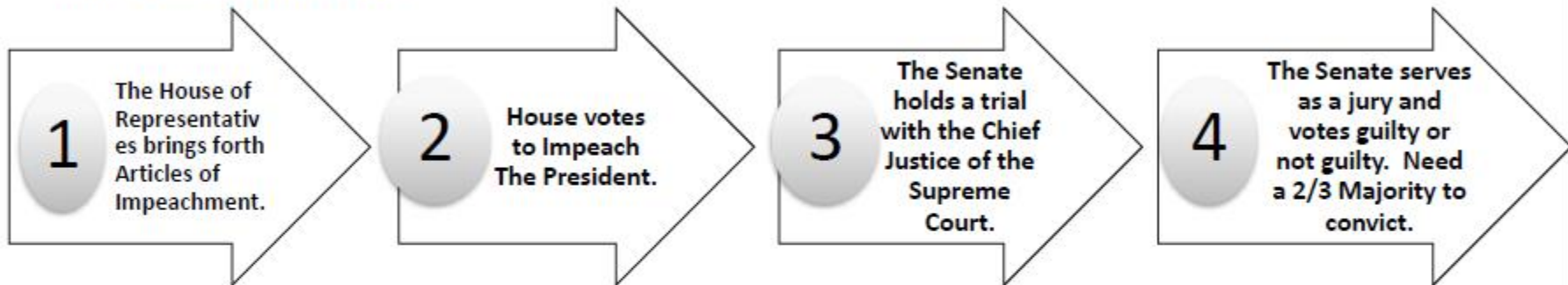
As a result, most southern states were controlled by Republicans and northerners. During this time many African- Americans were elected to political office.

This poster shows the African American members of the Louisiana Legislature who were elected under the Reconstruction Constitution of 1868.

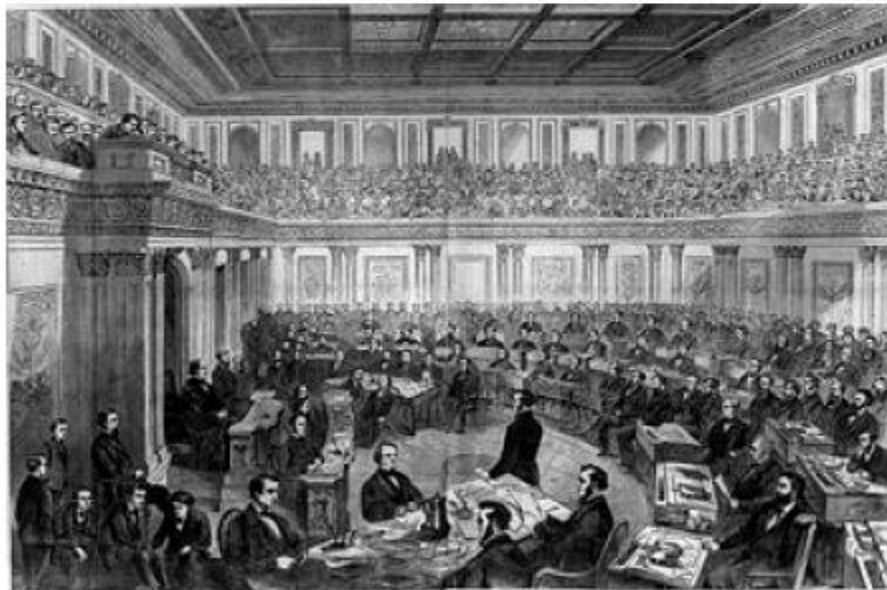


The Impeachment of Johnson

Andrew Johnson was the first President of the United States to go through the impeachment process.



Just because a president is impeached does not mean they have to leave office. The Senate holds a trial after the Impeachment hearing to determine guilt and if removal from office is necessary.



Black Codes

Black Codes were laws that were passed in the South during Reconstruction. Their purpose was to limit the rights of Freedmen.



Black Codes specifically targeted movement of African Americans and restrictions on labor. They were modeled off slave codes from before the Civil War.



Not allowed to travel freely

Not allowed to own certain properties or work certain jobs

Not allowed to vote

Required signed labor contracts with employers

Ulysses S. Grant



President—18

- Served 1869-1877
- Republican Party
- Supported Congressional Reconstruction and wanted to remove positive feelings towards the presidency from the South.
- Lobbied Congress for the 15 Amendment and supported the Civil Rights of former slaves.

Carpetbaggers & Scalawags

Carpetbaggers were northerners who moved down south in order to make a profit or gain political power off of the south during Reconstruction.



Carpetbaggers received their name because many of these individuals carried luggage made from carpet.

Scalawags were southerners who supported the Republican Party and Radical Reconstruction.



Many southerners saw the scalawags as betraying their fellow southerners since they gained political benefits by siding with northern republicans.

Freedmen's Bureau

During Reconstruction, Congress authorized and established the Freedmen's Bureau. The goal of the Freedmen's Bureau was to assist newly freed slaves into transitioning into life as free men. Services included, assisting individuals in locating their family if they had been separated in the war, teaching them to read and write, and provided legal assistance to African Americans and other small groups in the South. The Bureau also helped African Americans find jobs and negotiate the job contracts required by the Black Codes.



Because of Black Codes passed throughout the south, the job of the Freedmen's Bureau was extremely difficult. Members of the Bureau were often northerners who faced violence for assisting African Americans transition to free society.

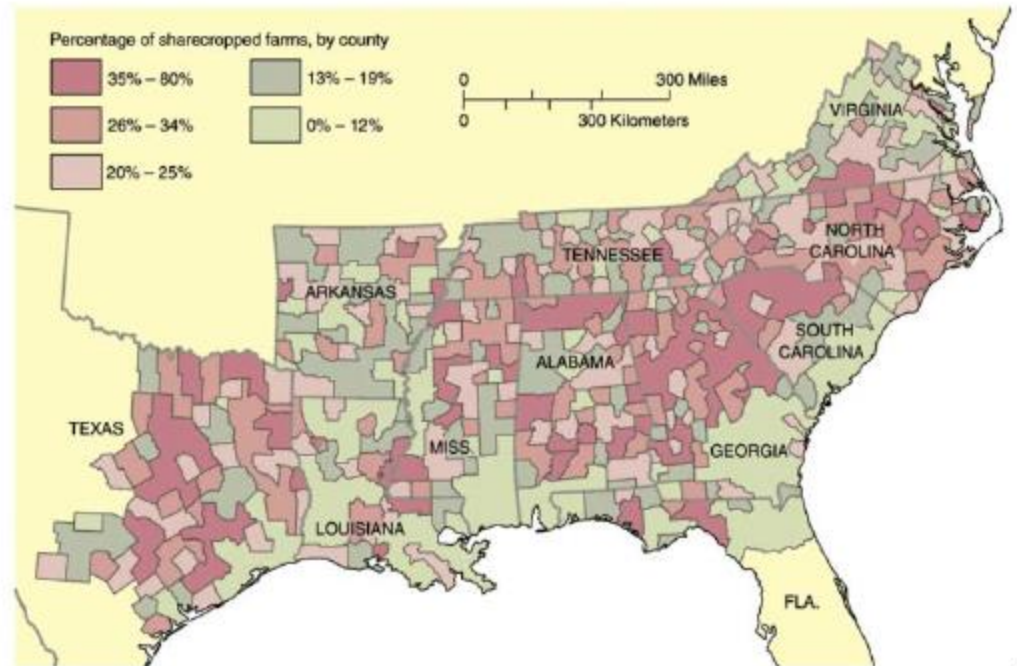
Freedmen's School

Since most slave codes in the south forbid slaves from learning how to read and write, one of the large efforts of the Freedmen's Bureau was to help African Americans learn these skills. Freedmen's schools were established throughout the south. They first were staffed by northerners who moved south as a part of missionary efforts. They met in any building that could serve as a school.



Sharecropping

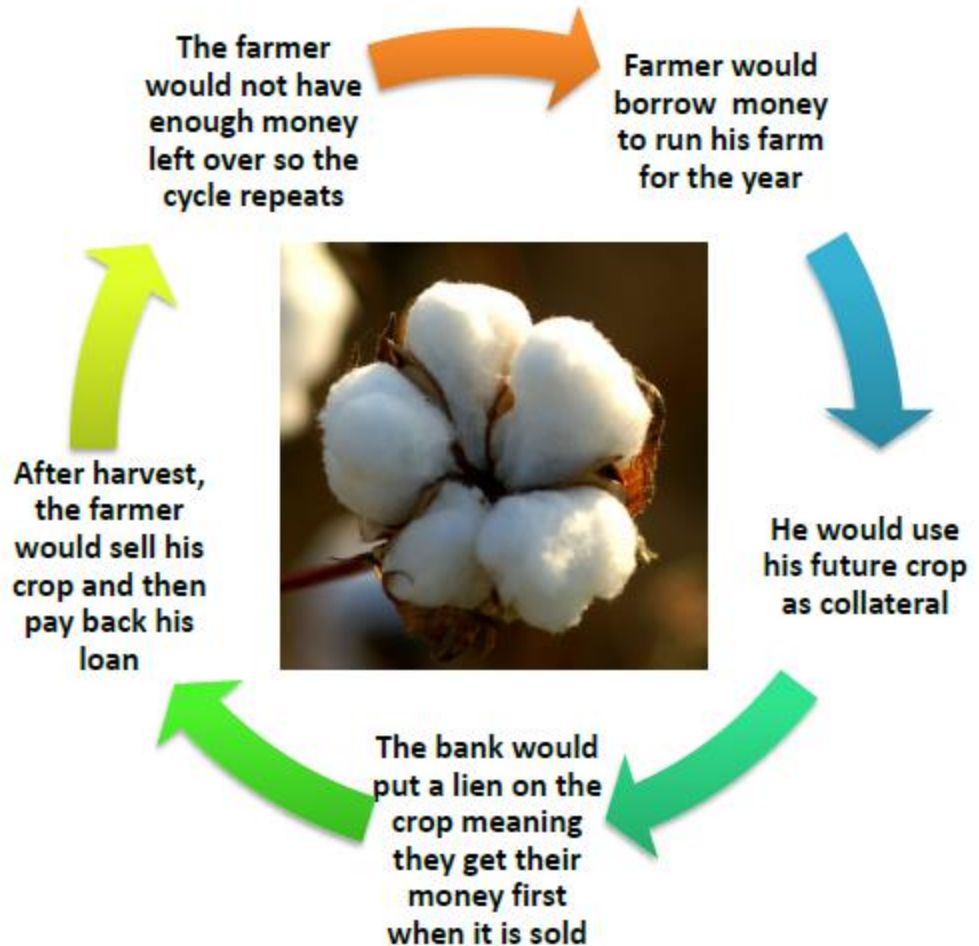
Sharecropping was a system where a large land owner (former plantations) would divide their land between tenant farmers. The tenant farmers would live on the land, get materials and supplies from the land owner and then at harvest, they would “share the crop” to pay off their debts for the year. In reality sharecropping led to the crop lien system and kept thousands of poor southerners in poverty. The entire family including children would often have to work the family plot in order to produce enough of the crop to survive.



Lien System

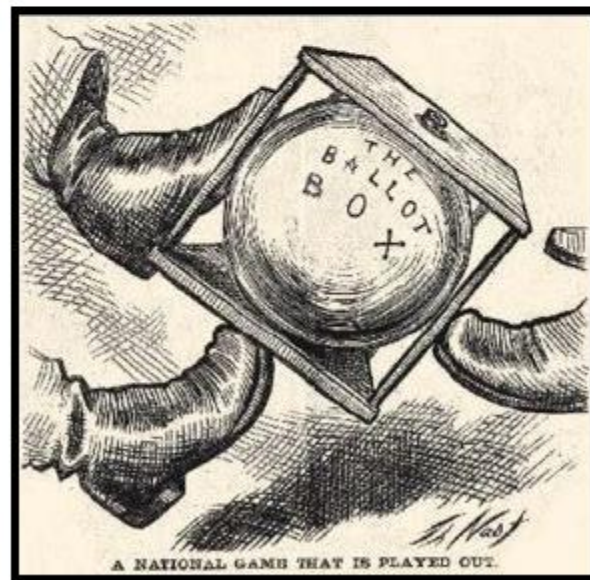
The Lien System was a way for poor farmers to acquire money to plant crops and run their farms during and after Reconstruction.

On the surface, the Lien System appears to meet a need by providing farmers credit. In reality the lien system created a cycle of poverty. Lenders would charge high interest rates and farmers often had so little of their crop after paying off their debts they had no choice but to continue to borrow money.



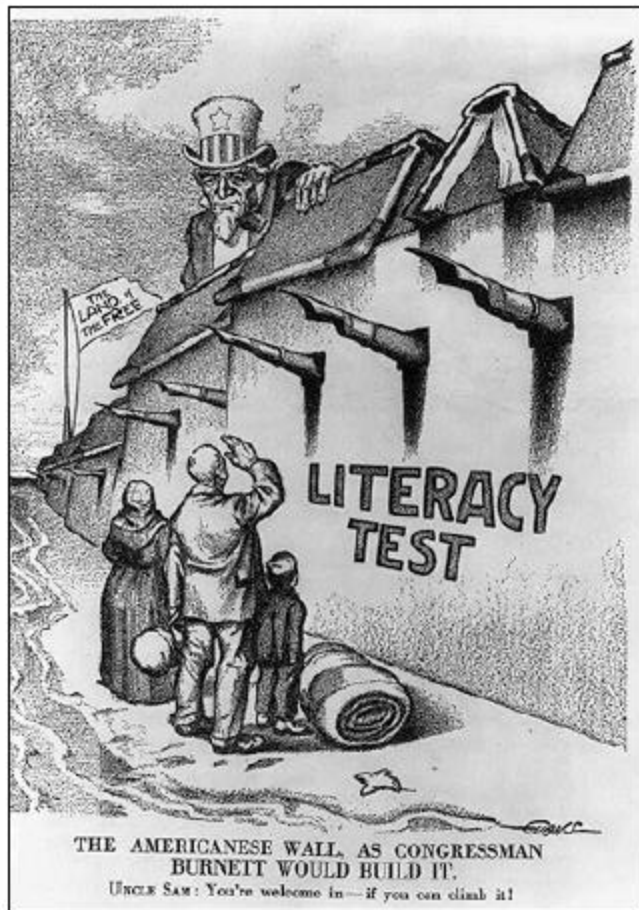
Disenfranchisement

Disenfranchisement is when the right to vote (suffrage) is taken away. This can be done either through changing the laws or placing barriers in the way of people wanting to vote. In the United States, wide spread disenfranchisement started in Reconstruction until the Voting Rights Acts during the Civil Rights Movement. Southern States created obstacles such as the Pole Tax, Literacy Test, and the Grandfather Clause to prevent African Americans, Immigrants and other poor sections of society from exercising their right to vote.



Literacy Test

A test that was given before a person was allowed to register to vote. The test was supposed to be a test to see if a person could read and write, but often required people to analyze legal documents, the Constitution, or perform tasks that were designed to be confusing.



The State of Louisiana

Literacy Test (This test is to be given to anyone who cannot prove a fifth grade education.)

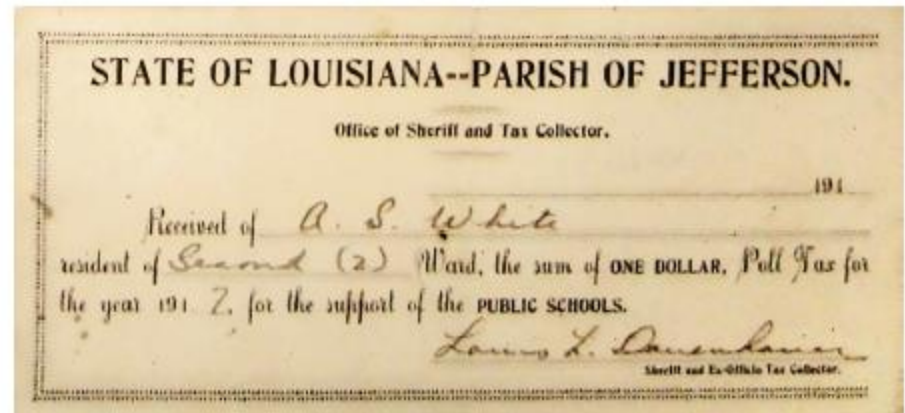
Do what you are told to do in each statement, nothing more, nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test.

1. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
2. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
3. Cross out the longest word in this line.
4. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
5. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
6. In the space below draw three circles, one inside (engulfed by) the other.

Literacy Test were used to disenfranchise uneducated African Americans as well as poor uneducated white southerners and immigrants.

Poll Tax

A method used to disenfranchise poor voters. In order to be able to register to vote, people would have to pay a “small” tax or fee. If this was not paid, the individual was not allowed to vote. Although the amounts collected were small (around \$1.50) this was an extremely large burden for the poor. Pole Taxes impacted African Americans and Native Americans the hardest since during this time in history they were some of the poorest people in the south. Pole Taxes were in existence until the 1960’s



Grandfather Clause

A method of disenfranchisement that allowed individuals to register to vote if their grandfather was able to vote before 1867 they could vote, regardless if they could read, met property requirements or could pay the poll tax. The date 1867 was chosen because it was the year when African Americans were beginning to have the right to vote.

NORTH CAROLINA,
Alamance.....County,
Patterson.....Precinct.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I am a citizen of the United States and of the State of North Carolina: I am *23* years of age: I was on the first day of January, A. D. 1867, or prior to that date, entitled to vote under the Constitution and laws of the State of....., in which I then resided (or, I am a lineal descendant of *William Moody* who was on January 1, 1867, or prior to that date, entitled to vote under the Constitution and laws of the State of..... wherein he then resided).

James M. Moody
Sworn and subscribed before me, this *22* day of..... 1902.
A. G. M. Pherson
Registrar.

The Grandfather Clause was used to make sure that poor white southerners who were uneducated, could still vote. The primary purpose was to disenfranchise African Americans and immigrants.

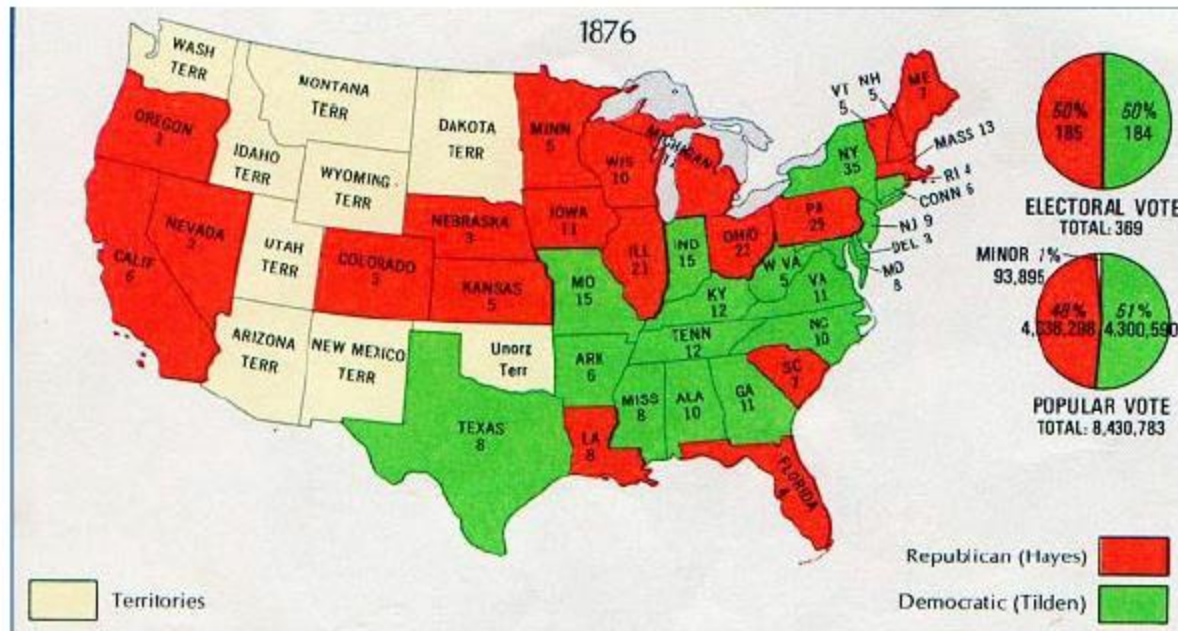
Compromise of 1877

The Compromise of 1877 is often seen as the official end to Reconstruction. Compromise was needed when there was no clear winner in the presidential election.

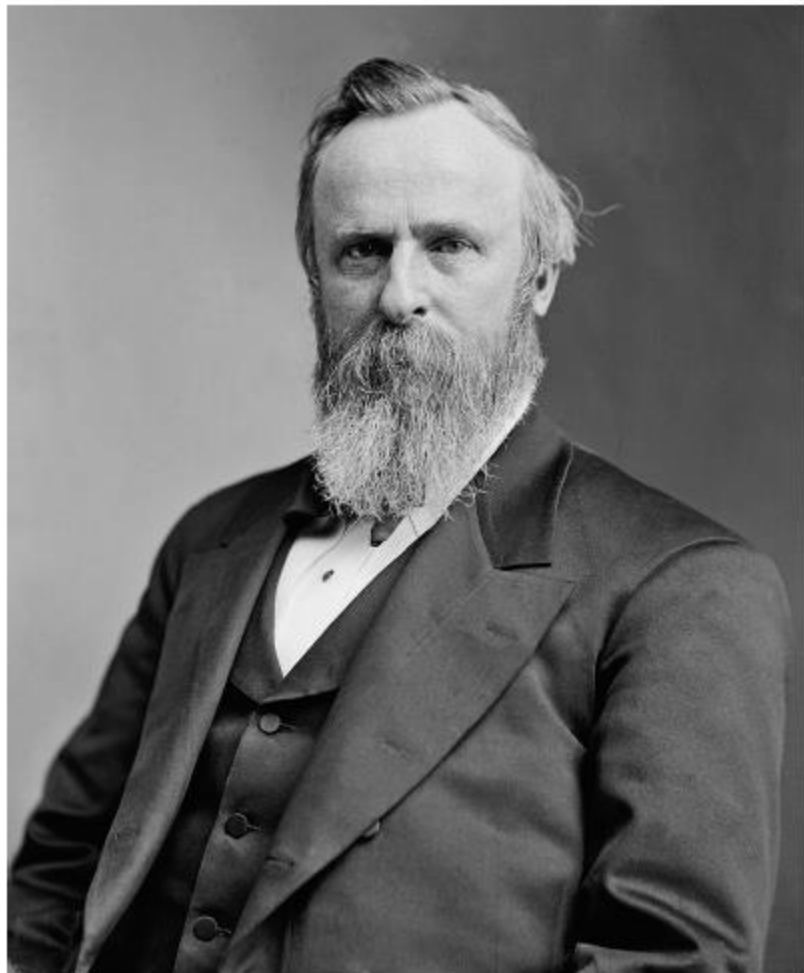
Republicans would take control of the White House

Reconstruction would be over and Federal Troops would leave the South

Southern Democrats were given back their voting rights and took control of state governments



Rutherford B. Hayes



President—19

- Served from 1877 to 1881
- Republican Party
- Was the center of the Compromise of 1877, when there were disputed votes in several states. A Congressional Commission awarded all electoral votes to Hayes and he won by one vote.
- As a part of the compromise, Hayes removed federal troops from the South.